



## NEWS RELEASE

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May 19, 2015

## **Man Charged with Kidnapping, Sexually Assaulting Second Lancaster Teen**

A 41-year-old man charged last week with kidnapping and sexually assaulting a teenage girl walking home from school in Lancaster today is facing additional counts for the rape of another Lancaster teen, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Jon Hatami said the amended complaint for Joseph Kenneth Cornett adds one additional felony count each of kidnapping to commit rape; assault with intent to commit a felony, victim under 18; kidnapping; lewd act upon a child, 15 years old; false imprisonment by violence; attempted unprotected sexual activity by one who knows self to be infected by HIV; and furnishing marijuana to minor over 14.

Case MA065982 now also includes two felony counts of forcible rape of child over 14.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the new charges today and is due back on June 15 in Department A02 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

In total, Cornett faces 26 counts which include the previously charged nine felony counts: kidnapping to commit rape; assault with intent to commit a felony, victim under 18; kidnapping; lewd act upon a child; false imprisonment by violence; sexual penetration by foreign object, minor over 14; attempted forcible rape; assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury; attempted unprotected sexual activity by one who knows self to be infected by HIV; and seven misdemeanor counts of resisting a peace officer and one misdemeanor count of possessing a controlled substance, PCP.

The new charges allege that on April 13, a 15-year-old girl that had accepted a ride from the defendant was prevented from leaving the car, Hatami said. Cornett then drove her to a deserted area on the far east side of Lancaster and allegedly sexually assaulted her twice, Hatami added.

On May 6, Cornett approached another 15-year-old victim claiming to be a police officer arresting her for jaywalking, the prosecutor said. The defendant is accused of then taking the girl to an abandoned

mobile classroom near Lancaster Boulevard and 40<sup>th</sup> Street and sexually assaulting her, the prosecutor added.

That victim managed to flee and was helped by people in a nearby church. The prosecutor says Cornett attempted to escape the area but could not get away because his vehicle became stuck in the sand. During his arrest, the defendant allegedly fought the officers and spat at them.

Bail was set at more than \$2.2 million.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.